

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
JULY 1997**

**HNC REVISION: 5 MARCH 1998
TAG REVIEW DATE: 20 MAY 1998**

1. **SITE NAME:** Fort Madison

SITE NUMBER: D01ME052500

LOCATION:

City: Castine
County: Hancock County
State: Maine

PROJECT NUMBER: D01ME052501

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 2

ASR RAC: 5

TAG RAC: 5

2. **POC'S:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Fort Madison consists of 2.15 acres of land located on a bluff overlooking the Castine Harbor, Bagaduce River, and Penobscot Bay, at the southern tip of the peninsula where the town of Castine is located, in Hancock County, Maine. The site is currently owned by the Town of

Castine and maintained as a public park. The site is recognized as a historical monument.

The fort is relatively intact and is located on a cleared area of 300 feet by 300 feet. The fort consists of a grass covered earthworks 200 feet long and facing south. A small earth covered building (the magazine) 40 feet by 40 feet is located about 100 feet north of the earthworks. Topography consists of rolling hills and wide expanses of nearly level flats. Runoff drains directly into the Bagaduce River and Penobscot Bay and then to the Atlantic Ocean.

The area is characterized by pleasant summers/falls and cold winters/springs. Summertime highs are in the 70's. Winters are quite severe, with temperatures well below zero occurring frequently. The cold season extends deeply into the normal springtime. Heavy seasonal snowfalls exceeding 100 inches occur every 10 years with average yearly snowfalls at 72 inches. Average annual precipitation is 44.34 inches.

4. **SITE HISTORY:** The United States originally purchased the land containing three acres more or less, including the beach, on 1 April 1809 in what was then Hancock County, Massachusetts (Maine achieved statehood in 1820). Fort Porter, an earthwork fortification, originally armed with four 24 pounder guns, was constructed in 1811 in anticipation of a war with England. Before the British occupied the fort from 1814-1815 and renamed it Fort Castine, the Americans blew up the magazine.

Following the British evacuation on 15 April 1815, a small American force reoccupied the Fort for a short time. The site was periodically under caretaker status for some years and then abandoned until 1863 when Fort Madison was built over the remains of the earlier fort. It contained a magazine and five cannon, three 32 pounders in embrasures and two 24 pounders in barbette. In 1865, the guns were removed to Fort Knox, Maine.

The property was granted by an Act of Congress to the Town of Castine on 30 July 1894 for use as a public park. The property was awarded to the town in 1960 for historic monument purposes. Today the 2.15 acre site remains a public park. The language of any acquisition or disposal documents is not known.

5. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Size, Acres:	2.15
Former Use:	Fortification
Present Use:	Public Park and Historical Monument
Probable End Use:	Public Park and Historical Monument
Ordinance Presence:	None

6. **CURRENT STATUS:** The draft Archives Search Report (ASR) for Fort Madison was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in July 1997.

7. **STRATEGY:** RAC 5;NOFA

8. **ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group (TAG) reviewed this ASR on 20 May 1998 and determined that the appropriate site strategy is RAC 5, NOFA based on the ASR Findings and initial ASR Conclusions and Recommendations. Reasons are: (1) Based on the extensive archive searches performed, the interviews with the owners of this site, and the results of the site investigation, no evidence of OE remaining on the site was found. (2) There will be no change in site conditions (i.e., development, etc.) where there would be any potential hazard posed by any subsurface OE. (3) During the War of 1812, there is a record that the Americans blew up the magazine, but further detail regarding explosives used or ammunition on hand is not available. (4) There is no indication of a hazard at the site as a result of the explosion since the British subsequently occupied the site and there was a record of ammunition inventory at the site in the years after the War of 1812. (5) In rebuilding the fort during the Civil War years, it would seem that earth would have been moved and any hazards may have been unearthed. (6) The ASR author stated that the current magazine was originally sealed up by the city of Castine to keep children from entering. This was evidently done because they were entering; if any OE had been present inside, it most likely would have been retrieved. (7) There were other forts of this type in the immediate area, and at these sites and within the town, the only OE that has ever been found is solid shot. (8) Determination of project ineligibility for this site was made at the division level. At this stage, if the record of explosion is now the overriding consideration for deciding on a strategy of EE/CA, that must be considered an act of war making the site ineligible.

HNC Safety Comments: "Non-concur with NOFA on this site." While recommending NOFA for this site, the ASR indicates that there may be a potential for OE but since the site has a stable future, NOFA is indicated. HNC Safety Safety concurred that there was a potential for OE at the site. He questioned what type of ordnance was in the magazine when it blew up, particulars regarding the sealing of the present magazine, and what type of ordnance has been found in the area. The response by the ASR writer was: (1) The magazine was sealed by the city to keep children from entering. (2) There was no record of OE at the site. (3) Findings of OE in the area and not necessarily at the site has been solid shot. (4) He acquiesced to a strategy of

further action by CEHNC to answer the questions presented. The TAG determined that a strategy of NOFA, RAC 5 was applicable.

CWM: CWM is not mentioned in the ASR and does not apply to this site.

Other Projects: None

Natural Resources: Federally threatened species occur within the site area. State threatened species are not listed for this site. They are listed in ASR Findings, para 3.5 on page 3-4. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may still be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

Historical Resources: The ASR indicated that the site is on the National Register of Historic Places. Any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and/or other like organizations.

9. **SCHEDULE SUMMARY:** NOFA

10. **FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY:** NA